

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a eDNA polynucleotide of claim 18 operably linked to an expression control sequence.

4. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 3.

5.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a first component selected from the group consisting of physiologically acceptable carriers and immunostimulants, and a second component consisting of a eDNA polynucleotide according to claim 18.

12.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising:

(i) \_\_\_\_\_-at least one oligonucleotide probe, wherein said at least one oligonucleotide probe ~~is a primer or a probe; and~~

~~wherein the at least one oligonucleotide comprises a polynucleotide consisting of at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of eDNA according to claim 18, and wherein said oligonucleotide probe is capable of selectively detecting the polynucleotide of claim 18 in a hybridization assay; and/or~~

(ii) at least two oligonucleotide primers, wherein said at least two oligonucleotide primers each comprise at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of claim 18, and wherein said oligonucleotide primers are capable of selectively amplifying at least a portion of the polynucleotide of claim 18 in a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

16.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~eDNA~~polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the contiguous nucleotide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:302, or a ~~sequence that varies from SEQ ID NO:302 due to differences in codon usage as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code~~ a contiguous nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:305;

(b) the contiguous nucleotide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:303, or a ~~sequence that varies from SEQ ID NO:302 due to differences in codon usage as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code~~ a contiguous nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:306; and

(c) the full length complement of a sequence according to (a) or (b). the ~~sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:302 or SEQ ID NO:303.~~